

James Coffe House Dec. the 22. 1745/6

# Power and Patriotism :

A P O E T I C A L

## E P I S T L E,

Humbly inscribed

T O

The Right Honourable *H.P.* Esq;

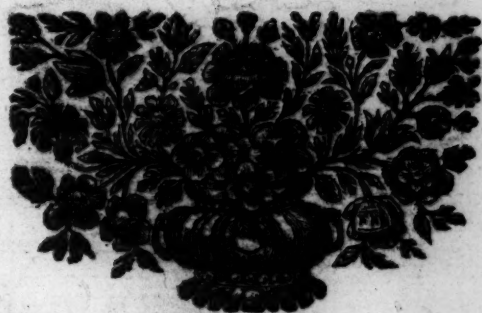
To which an INTRODUCTION is prefixed, shewing the  
Occasion.



*Nullus est Casus pro dignitate & libertate Patriæ, non ferendus.*  
CICERO.

*Sed tuus hoc populus sapiens ac justus in uno,  
Te nostris ducibus, te Graiis antefereudo.*  
HORACE.

Of antient Race by Birth, but nobler yet  
In his own WORTH, and without TITLE great. DRYDEN.



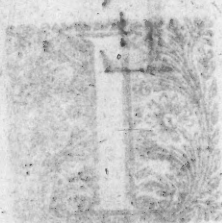
L O N D O N :

Printed for J. Hinton, at the King's Arms in St Paul's Church-  
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[Price One Shilling.]

Power and Patton

И Н Т Р О Д У К Ц И Я



The Right Honorable

to what we are entitled to know by the  
they claim that Herold's confession is necessary to all  
Actions and to do this we will produce the

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*

1. The first of these is the fact that the  
2. second of these is the fact that the  
3. third of these is the fact that the  
4. fourth of these is the fact that the  
5. fifth of these is the fact that the  
6. sixth of these is the fact that the  
7. seventh of these is the fact that the  
8. eighth of these is the fact that the  
9. ninth of these is the fact that the  
10. tenth of these is the fact that the

of a great many of the most valuable and interesting objects of the natural history of the country, and every one who has been to the Museum will be struck by the abundance of the collection.

The Administration of the  
 in the last fifty years. But we are to understand  
 remarkable to the full have not happened more than  
 Europe in which number of a like nature and  
 exactly.

Continues Children as long as we live  
[Price One Shilling]



## I N T R O D U C T I O N.

**I**T may be justly esteemed a great Weakness in the Moderns, that they carry their Admiration of the Antients so high, as to consider every little Incident in their Histories, as infinitely more striking, and of much greater Importance, than any that fall out in their own Times, in which most certainly they very often injure themselves as well as the Truth. They injure themselves, by supposing that there was a superior Degree of Sense and Virtue visible in those Ages, to what we are ever to expect to see in ours, by which they damp that Heroick Fire, so necessary to all great Actions, and so do their utmost to produce that Effect, which by a blind and ill-grounded Prepossession, they fancy produced already, by Causes, which neither have been, or can be assigned. They injure Truth, by suffering their Fancy, like a Telescope unskilfully used, to lessen those Objects that are near them, as well as to magnify such as are at a Distance, tho' equal in themselves.

WE pique ourselves, for Instance, upon understanding perfectly the Means by which *Pisistratus* raised himself to the Principality of *Athens*, by collecting them from a Multitude of Historians, at the same Time that we neglect a great Number of late Transactions, equally surprizing in every Respect, and much more instructive in their Consequences. The Sedition of the *Gracchi* has employed Abundance of modern Pens, and yet one may with great Veracity venture to affirm, that there are very few States in *Europe*, in which Events of a like Nature, and as remarkable to the full, have not happened, more than once in the last fifty Years. But we are so infatuated with that Admiration caught at School, that, in this Respect, we continue Children as long as we live.

I HAVE

I HAVE often thought, and I believe I shall never see Cause to change my Opinion, that it would be a Thing of great Consequence, if our Youth studied the History of our own Nation, with the same Application that they do the Histories of *Greece* and *Rome*. To neglect *these* would be certainly a Fault, but to neglect *that*, is possibly the greater Fault of the two. It was the Judgment of Mr *Hobbes*, who has been always esteemed a Man of strong Understanding, that our last Civil War was in a great Measure owing to our great Men's studying *Greek* and *Latin* Writers, and endeavouring to introduce the Maxims inculcated by them, into the Management of our Affairs, without duly considering the Difference between the Nations, and their Civil Constitutions. This Observation of his hath been frequently copied and commended, but I doubt very much, whether it has yet been sufficiently carried into Practice.

WHOEVER reads our History attentively will see, that almost all our great Statesmen, have either blindly addicted themselves to the Service of the Crown, or given themselves up to that Sort of Popularity, which absolutely withdrew them from it's Service; and hence it has proceeded, that instead of being Authors of Safety and Felicity, they have been the Instruments of Trouble and Danger, nay and sometimes of Destruction, both to their Country and themselves. Yet nothing is clearer, than that the only Way to promote the Good of this Nation, is to follow the Rule of the Constitution, and never to divide the Interest of the Prince from that of the People.

THE famous Earl of *Strafford*, whom I make no Scruple of asserting to have been, in Point of Abilities, equal to any Man of his Rank celebrated by the Antients, deviated into both these Errors, notwithstanding all that good Sense and deep Penetration with which he was endowed. While a private Gentleman, he pushed the  
Power



Power of the House of Commons with the greatest Heat possible, and yet after he became a Minister, he does not seem to have remembered, how far the Power of that House had been pushed by himself, and consequently might be pushed again. He moved then in a superior Orb, and tho' it can never be denied, that he moved in it with as much Dignity as ever Minister did, yet he fell by neglecting that Remark, obvious enough in itself, and one would imagine, as obvious to him as to any Man that ever lived. The great Earl of *Clarendon*, a Minister of quite another Cast, and who, tho' he was warmly zealous for the Interests of his Master, had nevertheless a sincere Affection for his Country; was undone by despising that Caution so necessary, of cultivating a good Correspondence with those who are the Representatives of the People, and who, if they ought not to be courted, at least ought not to be neglected. His Successor, the Earl of *Danby*, knew this perfectly, and therefore to secure himself from the like Fate, he had recourse (if the Stories of those Times do not mislead us) to a Sort of Influence, less honourable than the Negligence of his Predecessor, which though it did not absolutely protect him from Misfortunes, yet served however to lessen them in a very great Degree, especially if we consider the Violence of the Times in which he lived, and the Opportunities taken against him by his Enemies.

To carry one's Considerations lower upon this Subject is certainly a very delicate Point, and therefore I shall content myself with observing, that whatever some hasty and heedless People may have thrown out, Experience has shewn, that since Ministers came to have a due Conception of the Power of the Commons as well as the Crown, this Nation has been much more happy. I mean by this, that our Liberty has been more extended, our Properties better secured, our Trade daily increased, and yet the



Power of the Crown, when employed as it ought always to be, for the Good of it's Subjects, has been so far from suffering Diminution, that it has been found, that longer, more expensive, and more important Wars have been carried on within this Period, than at any Time before it. For how necessary soever it may be in arbitrary Governments, to keep the *Arcana Imperii* in the greatest Obscurity; yet Experience shews, that in free States, the more the Publick is entrusted with it's own Concerns, the better they go on, and the more vigorously they are prosecuted.

WE hear sometimes, however, a Kind of repining after what is stiled our Old Government, which, put into plain English, is little better than our Constitution misunderstood; for I make no Scruple of owning, that I look upon *Magna Charta*, as a rude Draught only of the Liberties we enjoy. That famous Charter intended that the Barons should be free, and though the Barons were numerous in those Days, yet certainly the Spirit of that Charter is much more diffused in ours, when the People in general are as free, and perhaps more so, than the Barons were designed thereby, and have their Freedom put on a Basis much more solid.

IT was reserved for our Times to see, that the greatest Struggles for Power may be carried on, without any of those Violences, and without producing any of those Mischiefs, which deform our antient Chronicles, and which are not absolutely effaced in the Stories of later Times, as appears particularly by the famous Struggle between the *Cecils* and the Earl of *Essex*, which ended in the shedding that Nobleman's Blood, for what was rather an Act of Indiscretion than Treason; but Thanks be to God, our Government has undergone so salutary a Change, that those who wish well both to the Crown and their Country, cannot want the Power of serving both, without coming to  
any



any such Extremities. It is now extreamly practicable to conciliate, what, in our Old Constitution, appeared Contraries, *viz.* Attachment to the Crown, and the strongest Zeal imaginable for the Interest of the People. Under that Constitution, an enterprizing Minister made Nothing of dissolving a Parliament, and forcing the Machine of Government, to keep going on for six or seven Years together, or perhaps longer; under this Constitution, such a Measure (as it ought to be) is impracticable. By this it plainly appears, that whatever splenetick Men (often too against their own Judgments) may assert, we are at this Juncture, in the strictest Sense of the Word, a FREE PEOPLE; the Form and Force of our Government depending, at least as much on the *Consent* of the COMMONS, as on the Will and *Pleasure* of the CROWN.

A LATE Dispute, which, however *brisk*, has ended very *happily*, has shewn our Constitution in the fairest Light possible; it has shewn, that the greatest Power that can be attained in this Island, is to be attained by having a due Regard for the Interest of the Publick, and that Ministers who preserve this, are sure of being safe under ALL Princes, and under a WISE and GOOD Prince, GREAT; it has shewn us, that the most enterprizing Genius may sometimes mistake it's Measures, and that what appears extreamly feasible in the Cabinet, may be absolutely impracticable elsewhere. It has shewn us, that we are in a much better Situation than we ever conceived ourselves to be; for it has shewn us, that such as are the best Friends to the People, and the truest Judges of the Constitution, have the Affairs of the one, and the Conduct of the other in their Hands, where it is our Interest to wish they might be. In one Word; it has shewn us, what perhaps was never shewn before, that *true Patriots* may be *able Politicians*, and that our *Politicians* are actually *Patriots*, not in *Name* but in *Fact*.

THIS gave Occasion to the following Verses, of which I shall say no more, than that if they are not well wrote, they are well designed, and that no Critick will be better pleased than their Author, to see them excelled on so noble a Subject. I shall only add, that they were written before, as these loose Thoughts in Prose were after, the Completion of this great Event.



A P O E T I C A L





14  
A POETICAL  
EPISTLE, &c.

**S**URE there are *Times* when *Bards* may venture  
*Praise,*  
Yet no Suspicion of their *Candour* raise.

When ALL the *Fullness* of their *Hearts* may tell,  
And own a *Joy* in others *doing well*.

Hard were it else for VIRTUE to be *known*,  
If *unapplauded* when in *Publick* shown.

And scarce, we *future* PATRIOTS could expect,  
If those We *have*, We *meanly* should neglect.

Silent behold them, *struggling* in our *Cause*,

Warm for our *Freedom*, zealous for the *Laws*.

Intent on *all Things* fit for our *Defence*,  
And proud to *save* US at THEIR OWN *Expende*.

IN Realms *despotic*, if some artful *Priest*  
Arrives at *Greatness*, he's by All carest.  
The *Financier*, who thrives at *publick Cost*,  
When most he *fleeces*, is *extoll'd* the most.  
And the *proud Soldier* dy'd with *human Gore*,  
The more his *Murders*, his *Applause* the more.  
What *Madness* this! what *Ignorance* in Choice!  
Does *Fury* guide the frantick *Peoples Voice*?  
Or funk to *Fools* beneath the Yoke of *Knaves*,  
Are they in *earnest* pleas'd with being *Slaves*?  
Whate'er it be, ----- their *Folly* must be great  
Who thus *adore* the Men they ought to *hate*.

BUT blest'd with *Sense*, blest'd with the *Right* to use,  
In Lands of *Freedom*, nobler *Themes* we chuse.  
Nor *Greatness* for itself alone *revere*,  
Unapt to *love* what must excite our *Fear*.



Rather



Rather *averse*, and with mis-judging *Hate*  
 Presuming *Ill* of such as dare be *Great*.  
 Distrusting *Eloquence*, afraid of *Power*.  
 So far from *flat'ring*, that we scarce *endure*,  
 Those who must *rule*; and tho' the *Gainers* We,  
 Yet with *Concern*, We this *Distinction* see.  
 But if a diff'rent *Path* we e'er pursue,  
*Conviction* drives us, still our *Judgment* true;  
 Good are the *Great*, the *Multitude* approve,  
 Sure Sign of *Merit*----- a FREE-PEOPLE'S Love.

YET better still, if *Those* who guide the *State*,  
 Will only upon *Patriot Terms* be *Great*.  
 If for their *Country* careful they sustain,  
 The *Load* of *Government*, it's *Pomp* disdain;  
 If only for the *Publick Good* they toil,  
 And neither *They*, nor those *beneath them* spoil;  
 In *Grandeur modest*, upright each in *Place*,  
 Discharg'd with *Justice*, *Dignity*, and *Grace*;

Prompt to *reward*, tho' slow to take *Offence*,  
 And always *heedful* of the **PUBLICK SENSE**.  
 Such *Rulers* never can *Reluctance* find,  
 To *all* they *ask*, the People are *inclin'd*,  
 Taught by the *Blessings* of so *mild* a Sway,  
 Well pleas'd they *serve*, and chearfully *obey*.  
 Content in all Things, they no *Toils* regard,  
 No *Taxes* gaul them, and no *Times* seem *hard*.

IF *farther* yet they go ----- new *Trials* stand,  
 When *dark* Intrigues induce some *harsh* Demand;  
 If then conducted by fair **VIRTUE's** Light,  
 They chuse to quit their *Power* to follow *Right*.  
 With decent *Duty* supplicate the *Throne*,  
 And for the *Publick Interests* flight their *own*.  
 What *Trophies* shan't We to such **PATRIOTS** raise!  
 Within what *Bounds* shall we contain our *Praise*?

IN Times like these ----- when *Truth* and *Praise* agree,  
 And grateful *Nations* all their *Duty* see.

When



When ev'ry Tongue proclaims the PATRIOT Name,  
 When *Millions* witness his just *Right* to *Fame*.  
 When *Infants* aiming at the Power of *Speech*,  
 Are taught by *Parents* fav'rite *Sounds* to reach.  
 When feeble *Dotards* own their *vig'rous Age*,  
 Saw no such VIRTUE grace the *Publick Stage*.  
 When Ages, Sexes, Ranks, *Distinction* scorn,  
 And PUBLICK WORTH on PUBLICK VOICE is born.  
 When in a gen'ral VOTE the PEOPLE join,  
 To stamp th' *immortal Mark* --- as now --- on THINE.

POETS may sure such *glorious Deeds* rehearse,  
 Nor fear an *Imputation* on their *Verse*.  
 Nay 'tis their Duty then ----- to raise the Song,  
 That VIRTUES rare like these they may *prolong*.  
 To *distant Times* make all their Beauties *known*,  
 Those t' *inflame* and *celebrate* their O W N.

How much mistaken have our *Sat'rists* been,  
 How much in *Manners* and in *Men* o'erseen

Ev'n *POPE* himself, *APOLLO*'s fav'rite *Bard*,

(To whom no *future Wit* shall be compar'd)

In this too *err'd* ---- He thought that *Place* and *Power*

Must *Conscience stifle*, *Honesty obscure*.

That *Statesmen* knew no *Guides* ---- but *private Views*,

That *Int'rests Dictates* they could ne'er *refuse*.

That *Pleasure*, *Power*, *Revenge*, or *Party-Rage*,

Did *all Mankind* ---- but *most the Great* engage.

And that *Self-Love* for *Social* to postpone,

Was a *Greek Virtue* to this *Clime* unknown.

BUT though his *tuneful Muse* the World misled,

To slight the *Living*, idolize the *Dead*.

To think of *Greece* and *Rome* with awful *Fear*,

And fancy none but *Knaves* and *Fools* born here.

Yet YOU, Great Sir, --- YOU, ---and your *noble Friends*,

Have made your *Country* and your *Age* amends.

Taught us that *Patriot Virtue* still survives,

And in bleak *Britain* as in *Athens* thrives,



NAY to *their* Stories, *Your's* gives *Credit* now,  
 And forc'd by *Facts* even our *Free-Thinkers* bow.  
 They now believe that ARISTIDES wrote  
 Against *Himself* — from *Principle* — the *Vote*.  
 That dying PHOCION blest'd th' *ungrateful State*,  
 Which paid his *Labours* with such barb'rous *Hate*.  
 That SCIPIO's *Exile* was a nobler Scene,  
 Than all his glorious *Victories* had been.  
 And SYLLA's quitting *Dictatorial Power*,  
 A full *Amends* for all he did *before*.  
 Nay more than this with ready *Credence* meets,  
 And without *Sneer* the *Pedant* now repeats,  
 How CODRUS in *Disguise* stole forth to *bleed*,  
 And CURTIUS to the *Gulph* provok'd his *Steed*.  
 With all the *Legend* of advent'rous Knights,  
 Of whom the *Poet* sings, or the *Historian* writes.

THESE fit for *Schools* — before — *Wise Heads* confess'd,  
 Some *Truth* at Bottom — *Fable* — all the rest.

Yet

Yet well designed — to give *old Bards* — their Due,

And *finely told* — and ev'ry Thing — but *true*.

For why said they should **NATURE**, *Mankind* change,

Why in those Ages all her *Worthies* range;

And leave us *none* in later Times to shew

What *finer Clay* she wrought with long ago?

ANSWER'D they are — “Behold yon **PATRIOT BAND**,

“ See in *what Numbers* — Men *superior* stand,

“ Mark their *high Birth* — their *higher Worth* explore,

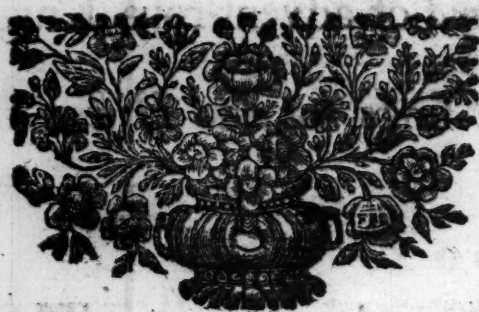
“ And own — to *Britain* — *Greece* and *Rome* were poor,

“ Once in an Age some *mighty Chief* they saw,

“ *Bards* and *Historians* took a *Pride* to draw.

“ More than them **ALL** — our **AGE** — our **CLIME** has *bred*,

“ A *Host* of **HEROES** — owning **You** — their **HEAD**.



F I N I S.

